

# Interracial News Service

A DIGEST OF TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RELATIONS

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## National Council Policy — Meetings and Conventions

The following principle was approved by the General Board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. in New York, March 11, 1953 under the title of: *A Guiding Principle for Meetings and Conventions*.

Justice, goodwill, and a racially inclusive fellowship, both in the church and in the community, are among the major concerns of the Christian churches. This affirmation finds its origin in the inclusive fellowship required by the Christian gospel. "... there can not be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, Barbarian, Scyth'ian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all." This concern is defined in a pronouncement titled "The Churches and Segregation", adopted by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Many denominations, recognizing patterns of segregation in the churches and the community to be a violation of the basic Christian principles of inclusive fellowship, have solemnly committed themselves to work unrelentingly for a non-segregated church in a non-segregated society.

Acknowledging the spiritual and moral obligation of the churches to practise racial inclusiveness, it is appropriate for the National Council to state the following guiding principle which will help to assure the full participation of all racial groups in its meetings and conventions:

1. National and regional meetings of the National Council or any of its units shall be held only where there are facilities (in hotels or other places of meeting) that are open to all participants without regard to race in accordance with the following:

- (a) No segregation of racial groups shall be made in room assignments.
- (b) No discrimination shall be practised against any participant in the use of meeting places, building or hotel entrances, lobbies, elevators, dining rooms or other building or hotel services.
- (c) The procedures in making reservations shall be the same for all participants.
- (d) When the name of the National Council or that of any of its units is used as a sponsoring or co-sponsoring organization in regional, state or local meetings, the National Council, its units or staff, as the case may be, shall

make certain that the above principle is accepted for all such meetings before agreeing to sponsorship or co-sponsorship.

- (e) Where local conditions are such that the National Council does not permit its name or that of any of its units to be used as sponsors or co-sponsors of a meeting, the decision as to whether or not staff services shall be rendered in connection with the project shall be the responsibility of the unit of the National Council involved.

("The Churches and Segregation", a policy statement adopted by the National Council, contains relevant considerations with regard to this question.)\*

2. In the light of the above stated principle it is recommended that

- (a) The National Council shall immediately institute through all of its units a nation-wide campaign of education to make effective the above stated principle.

- (b) The General Board of the National Council appoint an advisory committee to counsel in the situation where there is uncertainty as to whether local conditions meet the specifications of the principle set forth above.

### Suggested Practical Procedures

The following practical procedures for implementation are suggested by the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations:

#### A. Local Arrangements Committee for Meetings Initiated or Sponsored by the National Council

1. A local committee should participate in making arrangements for convention or meeting facilities. This committee should be racially inclusive in character. Such a committee should have or seek knowl-

edge of the best practices for achieving the integration of racial groups.

2. In the absence of a local committee, the national committee or the representatives of the National Council responsible for planning the meeting should consult with several persons in the community, including persons of racial minorities, who have experience and understanding in the field of race relations.
3. The agreement made by the local committee, the national committee or the representatives of the National Council with the management of each place of meeting or residence should include guarantees that the facilities will be accessible to all participants in the meeting on the same basis and that the management will instruct its employees as to the non-discriminatory treatment of all participants.

#### B. Places of Meeting

1. Experience shows that racially inclusive meetings can be held in many places where it has been assumed that they are not possible. It is well to remember that there are places to meet other than hotels. In an effort to secure a place where such meetings can be held, a canvass should be made of all available meeting places in the community—churches, community centers, private schools or colleges, etc.
2. Two or more non-segregated meetings can be conducted simultaneously in different places wherever it is impossible to find a hall or a meeting place which will accommodate the entire group on a non-segregated basis.
3. In areas where segregation is enforced by law, it is often difficult to have a non-segregated meeting in halls or meeting places controlled by local municipalities or counties. However, even though it is necessary to decline the use of these facilities if segregation is required, there is educational value in making repeated efforts to obtain their use on a non-segregated basis.
4. When the convention bureau of the chamber of commerce or the

\* "The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. in its organizational structure and operation, renounces and earnestly recommends to its member churches that they renounce the pattern of segregation based on race, color or national origin as unnecessary and undesirable and a violation of the Gospel of love and human brotherhood."—(Quoted from "The Churches and Segregation", Page 11)



hotel association is approached for help in locating places to meet, the racial inclusive character of the meeting should be made known.

### C. Housing and Meals

1. The local planning committee, the national committee or the representatives of the National Council should see that plans are carefully made in advance for each participant to be housed on a non-segregated, non-discriminatory basis.
2. It is believed that in the present climate of public opinion, an increasing number of hotels will be made available for racially inclusive meetings. Where hotels will not accommodate all participants in the meeting on a non-discriminatory, non-segregated basis, it is hoped that they will not be used by any participant. Listings of these hotels should not be included in conference promotion.
3. Careful plans should be made so that all persons attending the meeting can share in the fellowship at mealtime without discrimination or embarrassment. The process outlined in Section A-3 above should be used in dealing with hotels. Where some restaurants are available on a non-segregated basis for small groups, it is important to determine by conference with the managers prior to the meeting which ones follow this practice.

### D. Transportation

Transportation is sometimes very difficult for racial minorities in communities where segregation is enforced by law. In addition to being segregated in buses or trolley cars, persons belonging to racial minorities often are subjected to discourteous treatment. In some places they are permitted to use a taxicab only when it is operated by a person of their own race, and in other places they are subjected to discriminatory and discourteous treatment by taxicab operators. If any of these conditions prevail, those planning the meeting should arrange to have private cars or buses provided for the use of all participants. When this is not possible, it may be necessary to locate the meeting where transportation facilities make the meeting accessible to all who plan to attend.

### You Can Act

Statements of this type have been adopted by many denominations which are affiliated with the National Council of Churches, as well as by a number of other organizations. The availability of public accommodations such as hotels, restaurants, and places of meeting to all people regardless of racial or national origin is a necessity for the implementation of this policy. This immediately involves the practices of states and local communities (both customary and legal)

with regard to the above-named accommodations.

Individuals and groups can play a significant role in determining what local practice actually is. Also, they can bring to bear their influence toward making these accommodations available to all people on the basis of their need and ability to pay.

Facts are necessary. Do you know whether or not there are laws regarding public accommodations in your state or local community? Write to the proper officials in your state or city for this and other additional information on laws with reference to public accommodations.\* Regardless of what the laws are in your state or local community you should find out the prevailing practices with regard to the availability of hotels, restaurants and places of meeting. Information can be procured from the Chamber of Commerce, the hotel association and the restaurant association.

The following suggestions will provide a framework for an approach to the problems:

1. Determine what local community groups already have or might have a concern in this area of community life.
2. Use whatever inter-agency channels for cooperation that may be available in order to get this concern into the thinking of both leaders and members.
3. If a representative group or committee can be evolved from the various agencies, then confer and, among other things, plan to gather all available facts
  - a. about the laws of your community;
  - b. about the practices of specific hotels, restaurants and managers of places of public meeting. Include *all* types of practice found to exist.
4. Seek further conferences with the associations whose members are in business to provide public accommodations as indicated above.
5. Provide your fellow citizens with accurate information based on the findings (as indicated in number three above).
6. See that your community is well informed as to present laws against discrimination in places of public accommodation. Prepare and distribute a pamphlet describing these laws against discrimination.
7. Encourage the planning of discussion groups using some of this

\* As this issue of INS was going to press a very well arranged and useful chart titled, *Check Lists: State Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Bias Laws* was received. This comprehensive chart is published under date of March, 1953 and is a revision of a 1948 edition. The current revision refers to 386 laws as over against 220 laws referred to in the earlier edition. The list reveals a wide range of differences among the states with reference to civil rights laws.

Copies may be procured from *The American Jewish Congress*, 15 East 84th Street, New York 28, New York. Price, fifty cents.

literature and information for study purposes.

8. Wherever possible community agency representation should seek to work closely with the planning committees of coming conventions.
9. Plan intra-state conferences with similar interest groups in neighboring cities.

(The Editors)

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Here are some of the states which now have bills pertaining to public accommodations either enacted or pending action by their respective legislative bodies.

*Arizona*: "Carl Sims and two other Representatives, all Democrats, introduced a bill to outlaw racial and religious discrimination in places of public accommodation."

*Connecticut*: Mrs. Milton Koskoff (Republican) introduced two bills in the House of Representatives relating to discrimination in places of public accommodation. . . . Two bills introduced by Senator Leonard Levy (Republican) on January 30 would prohibit any kind of segregation in places of public accommodation. . . . A bill introduced on January 14 by Representative Allen Mopsik (Democrat) would prohibit discriminatory advertising by places of public accommodation.

*Indiana*: Representative William D. Mackey introduced a bill on January 15 to require equal service at all places of public accommodation, without regard to race, creed or color and without separation or segregation.

*Massachusetts*: House Bill No. 1967 would expand the definition of a place of public accommodation, resort or amusement as used in the Massachusetts civil rights law.

*Montana*: Racial or religious discrimination at cafes, hotels, bars and other places of public accommodation would be prohibited by a bill introduced January 22 in the state Legislature.

*New Hampshire*: Senator Norman A. Packard of Manchester introduced Senate Bill No. 8 on January 22 which would prohibit discrimination in places of public accommodation. (The present law bans discriminatory advertising by such places, but does not prohibit discrimination itself.)

*New Mexico*: House Bill No. 199 would prohibit discrimination in places of public accommodation.

*New York*: Senate Bill No. 156, introduced on January 12 by Senator Nathaniel T. Helman (Democrat) would make it a misdemeanor for the owner or operator of a public restaurant or hotel to advertise that patronage is restricted to persons of a particular race, color or religion or that such persons are not welcome or will not be accommodated or served.

*Oregon*: A bill to outlaw discrimination in places of public accommodation, resorts or amusements was introduced in the Oregon Legislature as Senate Bill No. 169. . . . The bill is sponsored by nineteen Senators and twenty-seven Repre-



sentatives. (The total number of Senators and Representatives is thirty and sixty respectively.)

*Washington:* Senate Bill No. 18, introduced on January 14, would clarify the existing civil rights law of Washington by setting forth a list of places deemed to be included in the definition of a place of public accommodation.

A second bill, Senate Bill No. 79, introduced on January 26, would prohibit any person or organization from denying any other person because of race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry the full use and enjoyment of any playground, recreational area or other facilities or the right to participate in any tournament, contest or other athletic event.

*West Virginia:* Representatives Drewery and Elliott, both Democrats, introduced a bill on January 29 to outlaw racial segregation in public accommodations such as theatres, barber shops and restaurants.

(Memorandum from *The Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'rith*, February 24)

Of these eleven states above reported as currently considering legislation to insure use of public accommodation<sup>1</sup> without regard to racial or nationality origin or religious belief, there are seven which were not reported as having any such laws as of September 1, 1949.<sup>2</sup> This source also indicates in Chart I of Appendix 7, that there were only 18 states which had laws against discrimination in the use of public accommodations as herein defined. Assuming then that the seven states which are considering the passage of such bills for the first time, actually enact them into law, there will then be 25 or about half of the states providing legal protection of the right to the use of public accommodation without discrimination because of race, nationality or religion.

### A Case In Point

When the Student Volunteer Movement made its first inquiry about Buffalo as a possible convention city, the desire was that all students should be on an equality while guests of the convention, without distinctions having to do with race, creed or color. The Hotel Managers' Association, as well as the managers of the six leading hotels to which almost all delegates were assigned, agreed to accept as guests convention delegates irrespective of race and in their entertainment to draw no lines of discrimination. Hotel dining-rooms, coffee shops, and cafeterias were open to all delegates alike. In addition, a limited number of special restaurants and cafeterias not in connection with the hotels were listed as willing to meet the ideal of interracial entertainment. (*Interracial News Letter*, January 1932).

1. 'Public accommodation' as used in this statement is confined to the following specific types of accommodation: auditorium, assemblage, hotels, inns, public conveyances, restaurants and taxicabs.

2. Murray, Pauli, *States' Laws on Race and Color*, Cincinnati, Ohio: Literature Headquarters; The Methodist Church, 1951.

## EXPANDED SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT

*The transfer of the Department of Intergroup Education from the Division of Christian Education to the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations was effective April 1.*

*This will make possible increased emphasis on community relationships between Christians and Jews as well as expanded service in dealing with the problems of anti-Semitism.*

*In connection with this transfer the Department welcomes the Reverend William H. Vastine as an Associate Executive Director. Mr. Vastine was formerly Director of the Department of Intergroup Education.*

*Mr. Vastine will continue to issue the INTERGROUP EDUCATION NEWSLETTER. Copies may be procured by writing to:*

MR. WILLIAM H. VASTINE  
79 East Adams Street  
Chicago 3, Illinois

### A MESSAGE OF HOPE

A message of hope to Jews trapped behind the Iron Curtain was beamed over the transmitters of the Voice of America in a special Passover broadcast, which also warned Soviet leaders that "the mightiest empire cannot long flourish unless its foundation stones are righteousness and respect for the sanctity of man."

Rabbi Morris N. Kertzer of Rockville Centre, L. I., Director of Interreligious Activities for the American Jewish Committee and author of the forthcoming book, "What Is A Jew?" said in a program, which will be repeated at least 50 times . . . in several languages, that . . . "The Festival of Passover is a reminder that man's soul yearns for the free expression of every facet of life, whether in art, politics, economic pursuits, or in the free worship of God." . . .

Adding that the world cannot endure "half slave and half free," Dr. Kertzer reported: "The Protestant Churches of America have expressed this thought in their recent condemnation of persecution of Jews in Soviet-dominated lands. The National Council of Churches of Christ declared: 'Wherever and by whomever these rights are denied there is created a situation which imperils the peace and freedom of all mankind.'

"As we prepare to celebrate anew the thrilling story of the ancient exodus from bondage, we pray that mankind will soon behold the light of love and brotherhood, of peace and freedom in every corner of God's earth." (*News: The American Jewish Committee*, March 27).

The matter in these pages is presented for the reader's information. It is not to be construed as reflecting the attitudes of the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations or of The National Council of Churches (with the exception of the statement adopted by the General Board.)

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON MILITARY POSTS

President Eisenhower's "forthright statement" on school segregation on military posts at his press conference (recently) "gives reason to hope that . . . this disgraceful condition will be corrected," asserts Clarence Mitchell, director of the Washington Bureau of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. . . .

During the conference the President went on to say that, wherever federal funds are expended, . . . he could not see how any American could justify discrimination legally, morally, or logically. If there are any benefits to be derived from such expenditures, the President asserted, they should be shared by all citizens regardless of such inconsequential factors as race or religion. (*Amsterdam News*, March 28).

Commenting editorially on the President's position the *Dallas Morning News* of March 28, stated that "President Eisenhower's effort to end segregation in public schools operated on military posts is consistent with his campaign promises. But it raises some problems on the six major posts of the Army and Air Force here in Texas.

If these schools for children of military personnel were staffed and run by the armed services, the question would be simplified. But they are operated by local school authorities. They are paid for chiefly by local and state taxes, although they receive some federal aid.

The school laws of Texas are necessarily binding on the school boards, administrators and teachers who conduct these schools. Texas law, as is well known provides for separate schools for whites and Negroes.

A sounder policy on the part of Washington would be to follow the school laws and customs in the states where such posts are located. But if a change is to be made, it would be better for the Federal Government to take over the financing and operating of such schools completely. Indeed, as the memorandum to the Secretary of Defense intimates, this is the only way it can be done. This plan to "integrate" a few Texas schools in accordance with what the Federal Office of Education thinks best calls for careful study by Texas school authorities. It is also a sharp reminder that Texans must continue to be on guard against any federal encroachment on our long-established state school system.

The White House announced (recently) that segregation will be ended in all army-operated schools at the end of the present school year.

At the same time, President Eisenhower indicated he will take steps to end segregation at schools operated on army bases by state authorities.

The action followed the president's recent declaration that there should be no discrimination because of race, creed or color in any project (supported) by federal funds.



According to White House News Secretary James C. Hagerty, the army maintains segregated schools at present on only one base — Fort Benning, Ga. White and Negro students at school will no longer be separated starting in September. (*The Oregonian*, March 26).

The Fairfax County (Va.) school board would probably cancel its agreement with Fort Belvoir and withdraw its teachers from there if segregation in the post schools is ended in line with White House policy to end segregation in all schools operated on Army posts with Federal funds.

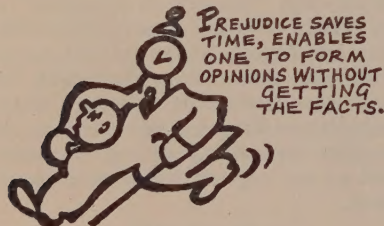
Robert Walker, Fairfax school official, said last Thursday that the county school board would have no choice if school segregation is abolished at Fort Belvoir.

"Under Virginia law we could not supply teachers for non-segregated schools," Mr. Walker said. (*The Afro-American*, April 4).

## THE PEOPLE VS DISCRIMINATION

Four Negro school teachers from Philadelphia, Pa., recently won a judgment totaling \$1,000 in a suit they brought in Kingston, N. Y., for damages based upon their having been discriminated against because of their race by a small resort not far from Kingston. Each of the plaintiffs won a jury verdict of \$250.00. In addition, those of the plaintiffs who had made special preparations for their vacation, such as the purchase of clothes, etc., won special damage to reimburse them for those expenses. . . .

The jury, which consisted almost entirely of Ulster County farmers and their wives, found for the plaintiffs as described above. The fact that a jury, selected from local resort area residents, returned such a verdict in favor of out-of-town plaintiffs, may well be a reflection of the success of the campaign of education that has long been carried on in New York State as to the need for doing away with racial and religious discrimination in places of public accommodation. (*Joint Memorandum: The American Jewish Committee*, February 12).



IF HE TEACHES HIS SON TO HATE ANOTHER BOY, HE BECOMES HIS BOY'S ENEMY... SINCE HE MAKES AN ENEMY FOR HIM.

(Used by permission of the author and illustrator, Frank Hanley.)

## BRIEFLY

The state (N. Y.) is going to build a \$1,500,000 housing project (near Salamanca) on the Allegany Indian Reservation, but most of the 100 garden-type apartments will go to the red man's poor white brothers who now live in a slum. . .

All but a small corner of Salamanca rests on land leased from the Seneca Indians, to whom the municipality pays \$11,000 each year on Feb. 19 as land rental. This western New York manufacturing city has a population of 9,000 predominantly white. (*The New York Times*, March 24).

A borough wide survey of facilities and services available to Brooklyn domiciled Puerto Ricans in their effort to become integrated into the life of the community, has been launched by the Brooklyn Council for Social Planning, it was announced this week by J. Courtney McGroaty, Chairman of the Council's Puerto Rican Steering Committee. (*Amsterdam News*, March 28).

An example of inter-faith cooperation in a common purpose of serving youth, were recent "help week" projects of Alpha Epsilon Pi and Sigma Alpha Mu fraternities on the University of Washington campus. Composed of members of the Jewish faith, the two groups sent their pledges to do a little job of service at the Northeast Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association. (*The Community Reporter*, March 6).

## REPORT FROM PENNSYLVANIA

Job discrimination against Negroes and other minorities is running rampant in Pennsylvania, according to a report of a 14-member committee appointed by the governor.

Samuel H. Daroff, Philadelphia businessman, is head of the committee which surveyed 1,229 diversified companies, employing nearly 1,000,000 workers. No concerns checked were identified by name.

The report said that most of the discrimination was against Negroes, and that the report would be used to encourage the

state legislature to pass a "sound and effective" FEPC bill. . . .

Highlights of the report showed that 90 per cent of the employers were "unfair" toward at least one minority group in hiring, promoting or restricting apprenticeship opportunities. . . .

Here is a breakdown on job discrimination according to categories:

Semi-skilled, 52 per cent; skilled, 67 per cent; supervisory, 83 per cent; office, 88 per cent; engineering, 89 per cent, and sale, 92 per cent.

From these figures, it can be seen that discrimination increased in proportion to the income bracket. . . .

"Tradition" and "company policy" were cited most frequently as the principal reasons for discrimination.

The survey was conducted by the Industrial Race Relations Commission, an official body. (*Amsterdam News*, March 28).

## EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT

Annual Interdenominational Institutes on Racial and Cultural Relations will be held this summer across the country at the following points:

July 13-17, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon

July 20-25, Lincoln Seminary, Lincoln University, Pennsylvania

August 3-7, Eden Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri.

These Institutes seek to serve the practical needs of the Protestant churches as they move toward the realization of non-segregated churches in non-segregated communities.

Through the use of worship, lectures, case studies, panel discussions, visual aids, field trips, study groups, and dynamic leadership, the Institutes will serve as laboratories in practical Christian brotherhood. Major attention will be given to methods and techniques that can be used to improve race relations in the local community and to develop inclusive churches and church-related institutions.

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